

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 220840Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5680

S E C R E T SAIGON 5427

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR VS

SUBJ: E AND E

1. MY AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUE JUST CAME IN VERY PERTURBED STATE SAYING HE HAD JUST BEEN SIGNALLED FROM CANBERRA THAT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED FROM WASHINGTON THAT ON THE 23RD OF APRIL THERE WOULD BE A FINAL AND TOTAL MASS EVACUATION OF AMERICANS.

2. HIS INFORMATION MATCHES MINE IN THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE LULL IN MILITARY ACTION OVERNIGHT. HE WAS THEREFORE AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND REASON FOR SUCH AMERICAN ACTION WHICH CANBERRA WAS AFRAID WOULD BE ONE THING WHICH WOULD TRIGGER PANIC IN SAIGON, AND THEREFORE ORDERED HIM OUT TO AVOID CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. ACTIONS NOT OF EITHER GVN OR NVA ACTION.

3. I TOLD HIM I KNEW OF NO SUCH ORDER. I AGREED THAT IT WOULD SEEM TO BE UNNECESSARY JUST NOW, ALTHOUGH WE WERE KEEPING VERY WARY ALERT. I SAID ALTHOUGH ONE COULD NEVER WHOLLY EXCLUDE UNPREDICTABLE ACTIONS OF PRINCIPALS TEMPTED TO ACT ON RUMORS OR PRESS REPORTING IN LIEU OF HARD FACTS. HOWEVER, I SAID I THOUGHT MY PRINCIPALS WERE A LITTLE MORE SENSIBLE AND RESPONSIBLE THAN THAT AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAD PROBABLY PICKED UP THIS REPORT FROM LOW LEVEL SOURCE.

4. I SAID OUR REPORT OF LAST MIDNIGHT (OUR CUT OFF HOUR)

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WOULD SHOW 2,241 DEPARTURES THROUGH OUR LIFT, 674 OF WHOM WERE

AMERICAN CITIZENS. I SAID ACTUALLY A TOTAL OF 2,700 DEPARTURES
HAD TAKEN PLACE SINCE PLANES OPERATED AFTER MIDNIGHT.

5. HIS PLAN WAS TO SEND OUT ABOUT EIGHT OF HIS REMAINING STAFF
TOMORROW, AND MAKE NO DECISION ON OTHERS UNTIL SATURDAY. I
SAID I WAS GIVING NO ADVICE BUT I THOUGHT THAT SENSIBLE.

6. JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW HOW OUR UNGUARDED
COMMENTS ARE REGARDED ELSEWHERE.
MARTIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON05427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750140-0588
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750428/aaaabafx.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: E AND E
TAGS: AEMR, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006